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19 Jan 51

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TO : Department of State

FROM : MEMPHIS No. 216 January 19, 1951

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RE :

RETAIN OR DESTROY

SUBJECT : Transmittal of Decisions of Meeting of Palestine Refugees in Lebanon

Enclosed is a translation from the Arabic of a letter from Hailo GHURY of the Arab Higher Committee dated November 2, 1949. This letter calls the attention of the American Government to the conditions under which the Palestine refugees are living. In view of the action of the United Nations in 1948, it hopes that the United States will cause the United Nations to put into execution the decisions taken in November of 1948 regarding Palestine.

Appended to the letter as Enclosure II is a summary of the decisions of a general public meeting of Palestine refugees held in Beirut on November 2, 1949. These decisions follow the same line of thinking regarding the United Nations Organization and Palestine as that expressed by Hailo Ghury in his letter.

Enclosed also is a statement of support of the "Manifesto of the Action Committee of the Conference of Stateless Palestinians" put out by the so-called "Committee for Sidon, Tyre and the Southern Qatir" (Enclosure III).

COMMENT: The meeting of November 2, attended by an estimated 200 people, was called primarily to prevent divided activity among the refugees with respect to Haifa Bay. The Communists reportedly were urging violence in the form of strikes against UNRWA, the more radical refugees, calling themselves the Conference of Stateless Palestinians, wanted to strengthen the "Conference" by assuming leadership in opposition to the Arab Higher Committee, while the AHC wanted to keep control and follow a more orderly program. The "Conference" leader, Muhammad al-LIBNI, was ejected from the meeting.

The meeting itself was of little importance. Its significance lies in the fact that it showed the split among the refugees, and the fact that the previous leadership of the AHC is weakening, bearing out the contention that the influence of the former Grand Mufti of Jerusalem is on the wane.

This material is sent to the Department as reflecting certain phases of intra-refugee politics in Lebanon, and the nature of radical and Communist activity therein.

*Lowell C. Pinkerton*  
Lowell C. Pinkerton  
American Minister

FOR COORDINATION WITH

State

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Enclosures: 3 e/s

Dept. please pouch to Damascus, Amman, Cairo, Tel Aviv

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NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2006

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Enc. 1 to Beirut 6.4 Mar 18, 1960

Translation of Letter from Haila GHORY of the Arab Higher Committee to the American Minister in Lebanon, dated Nov. 3, 1960.

His Excellency American Minister in Lebanon, Beirut:

Salutations and respects. Enclosed your honor can find a copy of the decisions which were unanimously taken by the Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, on Palestinian day, which was held on November 2, 1960, hoping you will submit it to your Government.

We take this occasion to attract your attention to the exceptional condition under which the refugees suffer, and which has become insupportable any longer, and hope that your great Government would hurry in settling the question of the refugees in putting into execution the decision of the United Nations taken on November 11, 1948.

The reason for submitting this petition is what was done by the United Nations, of which your Government is a member, in Korea, and her resorting to force and firmness in support of her decisions regarding that country, and their execution.

The question of the refugees is a human question of the first magnitude, requiring firmness and care by the United States more than the question of Korea.

/s/ HAILA GHORY

Arab Higher Committee

Date: Beirut, 2/11/1960

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Decisions of the General Public Meeting held in Beirut on Nov. 2, 1950

1. The Palestinians consider the Arab League and Governments responsible for the immediate solution of the Palestinian question in the interests of its inhabitants.

The League and Governments have taken charge of the Palestinian problem and are responsible for the delivery of Palestine; accordingly the Palestinians urge the Arab Governments and League to take a serious action and follow a clear and firm policy to help Arab Palestine to attain its rights and help them to return to their home.

2. Owing to the fact that the condition of the refugees has become both dangerous and critical; with the fear that its continuation might result in the extermination of the refugees, they ask the Arab Governments repeatedly and urgently to hurry in settling the Palestinian question on the basis of returning them to their country and compensating them for all their losses, in movable and real estate; and guaranteeing their liberties, lives, interests and rights.

3. The refugees ask the United Nations Organization to execute its decision dated 11-12-48, regarding the refugees by returning them to their country and compensating them for their losses. They hold her responsible for the terrible conditions which will undoubtedly result from their keeping them away from their home.

They consider themselves free to follow all means and methods and to resort to any way and action to protect their interests and reach their rights.

The United Nations Organization which resorted to force to stop aggression in Egypt should respect its decisions with regard to Palestine and execute it with sincerity and honor; and not use two measures and two weights.

4. The Palestinian refugees in Lebanon announce their attachment to their country, Palestine, and do not wish to change it, in any circumstance, and insist on their rights to return to their country and to restore their money and possessions, and compensation for damages.
5. The refugees in Lebanon declare their gratitude to His Excellency the President of the Lebanese Republic, and to the President of the Council of Ministers, Lebanese people and the Lebanese press for their kindness, sympathy and care.

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6. The refugees send their greetings to all Arab countries; to the refugees in all Arab countries; to the residents in Palestine; to His Eminence the Mufti of Palestine; and President of the High Arab Committee; and all political chiefs working for Palestine and the refugees with loyalty, faith and truth.
7. The decisions will be presented, through the Higher Arab Committee and the representatives of the refugees, to the appropriate centers and will be called to the United Nations and the Arab delegations in it.

RESTRICTED